

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND
RODEO SCHOLARSHIP FUND**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to one of the most successful scholarship programs in the country. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has been known as the largest Rodeo in the world.

It attracts the best of the best in the rodeo and livestock industries but it also raises millions of dollars for Houston area children to go to college.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo awarded 315 scholarships totaling \$3.78 million this year, and every year, the rodeo increases the number of awards given.

Forty students in our Congressional District received a \$12,000 Rodeo scholarship bringing in almost \$500,000 in scholarship money collectively.

Since 1957, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has been helping students that demonstrate academic success, leadership, and need achieve their dream of going to college.

Next year will mark 50 years since the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo awarded their first scholarship and 75 years since the rodeo started.

In that time, over 20,000 students have received over \$100 million.

I was pleased to learn that students in our Congressional District have received almost \$5.9 million in scholarship money since the Rodeo Scholarship Program has been in existence.

The area I represent has a large percentage of first-generation college students. I was especially pleased to learn that Milby High School, a school that is 90 percent Hispanic has received more Rodeo Scholarships than any other High School in the State.

Milby High School students have received 222 scholarships totaling \$1.4 million. That's impressive for Milby and it's a statement to the commitment of the Rodeo to serve all communities in Texas.

I'm sure hundreds of more students will enjoy benefiting from this amazing program as it grows in the future.

I am proud to be a life member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and thank the thousands of volunteers that dedicate well over a million hours of service each year to make the rodeo and its scholarship program operate as smoothly as they do.

Their service to our community is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all my fellow Members to come down to Houston sometime to enjoy all the entertainment the Rodeo has to offer, and then join me in visiting some of our neediest schools so you can meet the students that benefit from the world's largest rodeo.

TRAIL OF TEARS STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that the U.S. House of Representatives is considering H.R. 3085, the Trail of Tears Documentation Act, which I introduced last year with my friend, Representative ZACH WAMP. This important legislation has 20 cosponsors from 8 different states and works to preserve an important chapter of our history so others can learn from our past.

The lessons that lie along the Trail of Tears are more than a chapter in a history book. They are the lessons that teach future generations to celebrate diversity rather than to push it into the farthest corners of our country. Only by experiencing this tragedy can we begin to understand why so many Native Americans died along this trail.

The Trail of Tears Documentation Act would encourage the Secretary of the Interior to complete the National Historic Trail of Tears from North Carolina to Oklahoma. The proposed routes include two trails in Arkansas where close to 2,000 Cherokee traveled after the U.S. government forced them to find new land in Indian Territory. The Bell route heads up the Arkansas River from Tennessee through Little Rock and Fort Smith, and the Bengé route extends west from Randolph County to Washington County.

Our legislation asks the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study of the additional trail segments, emigration depot, and land components currently missing along the historic trail. Once complete, individuals will be able to travel the entire length of the trail and experience interpretations of that period in American history.

It is unacceptable that such a critical part of our history remains a patchwork of missing pieces. As Americans, we need to capture this part of history so we never forget the stories of families torn apart at the hands of our country. By preserving this trail, we will give our children and grandchildren the opportunity to experience this tragedy firsthand and develop a better understanding of what happened to Native Americans in this country.

IN SUPPORT OF LIFTING THE BAN
ON FEDERALLY FUNDED STEM
CELL RESEARCH**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it isn't every day that we get to come to the House Floor with the opportunity to save lives. When we voted on H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, we were given that very chance. With the Senate voting on the bill in the coming days, we must respond to 72 percent of Americans, scientists, researchers, and Nobel laureates and vote to continue our support for lifting the ban on which stem cell lines can be federally funded.

Right now, only 22 of the 78 stem cell lines approved by President Bush are left. Many of

these lines have been contaminated and are no longer useful, but more than 400,000 frozen embryos exist in the United States. With further research, these cells may be used as "replacement" cells and tissues to treat many diseases including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's disease and others. Stem cell research holds hope of one day being able to treat brain injury, spinal cord injury, and stroke for which there is currently no treatment available. And they may solve the problem of the body's reaction to foreign tissue, resulting in dramatic improvements in the treatment of a number of life-threatening conditions, such as burns and kidney failure, for which transplantation is currently used.

As a co-chair on the Working Group for Parkinson's Disease and as someone who has lost a very close family member to Parkinson's disease, I know firsthand just how important this legislation is and how important it is to open up the stem cell lines. Parkinson's disease is a progressive degenerative brain disease which kills a specialized and vital type of brain cell, a cell which produces the substance dopamine, that is essential for normal movement and balance. The loss of these dopamine-producing cells causes symptoms, including slowness and paucity of movement, tremor, stiffness, and difficulty walking and balancing, which makes the sufferer unable to carry out the normal activities of daily living. In 30 percent of the cases those symptoms include dementia. As the disease progresses, it inflicts horrific physical, emotional, and financial burdens on the patient and family, requiring the caregiver to assist in the activities of daily living, and may eventually lead to placement in a nursing home until death.

With further research into stem cells, scientists will be able to "reprogram" the stem cells into the dopamine-producing cells which are lost in Parkinson's disease. One million Americans are afflicted by this terrible disease. This bill will directly help them.

As for the suspensions we are debating today. I have heard Members of the other body claim that they are useless, but harmless. That they don't do anything to help and that there are no applications of science that they would impact, that fetal farms simply don't exist.

Mr. Speaker, we have a bill before us that will save millions of lives and impact millions more.

It's time that we put the politics aside, listen to the science, and do what's right.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 810.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes on July 17, 2006. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 377, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 376, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 375, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING HEATHER MARI STANTON OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heather Mari Stanton on the occasion of her retirement as project manager from the Napa County Flood Control and Water Management District.

Ms. Stanton's career in public service began in 1981 when she was hired as the executive assistant to the city council in San Jose. Her involvement and leadership in political life had begun earlier, however, when she founded her own political campaign consulting company in 1975 and worked as a lobbyist and advocate for the outdoor industry.

Ms. Stanton's work in the Napa Valley began in 1987 with her appointment as an assistant to the city manager in Napa, and she quickly moved to the position of director of community resources, a position she held for a decade. As director, she was instrumental in overseeing the development of numerous parks, sporting facilities, and community buildings, as well as an animal shelter.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Stanton's work as project manager of the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has been vital to the success of the ongoing effort to ensure greater flood protection for the communities along the Napa River. In addition to ensuring the safety of our communities, she has helped to preserve the natural beauty of the Napa Valley through her involvement with the restoration of over 900 acres of wetlands.

Ms. Stanton is an active participant and leader in the Napa Valley community. She is

currently a board member of Leadership Napa Valley, where she has helped develop programs to nurture new generations of leaders. She is also a member of the Napa Valley Art Association and the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children.

Ms. Stanton has also actively been involved in promoting the interests of the business community in the Napa Valley through her participation with the Napa Chamber of Commerce. She is a past president and board member of the Napa Valley Conference and Visitor's Bureau.

Ms. Stanton is the loving mother of three children, Shana, Greg, and Andrew Stanton. She lives with her best friend and partner, Benjamin Faulk.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Heather Mari Stanton for her years of public service to the city and county of Napa, and for her hard work and leadership in the public life of the Napa Valley and extend our best wishes to her in retirement.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Federally funded, ethical stem cell research. H.R. 810 passed by the House and passed the Senate on July 18, 2006 accomplishes this goal.

This important legislation would lift the ban on which stem cell lines can be researched using Federal dollars. It provides sound rules and regulations to govern the research of

stem cells, such as preventing human cloning for embryos or the deliberate destruction of embryos, while also providing doctors and scientists the ability to perform more research to find new cures for degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, spinal chord injuries, and diabetes.

Many of my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle believe this legislation will open the door to rouge doctors to perform cloning procedures, or will allow for the use of Federal funds to actually destroy the embryos. Let me be crystal clear, this legislation will NOT allow Federal funds to be used in the destruction of embryos, nor will this legislation allow these funds to be used in cloning.

We, as a country, excel in so much; let us push forward on important research rather than regressing. With embryonic stem cell research we could potentially save the lives of an estimated 100 million Americans.

While this bill has overwhelming support from our country's leading scientists, biomedical researchers, patient advocacy groups, and health organizations, along with many religious leaders. President Bush has emphatically stated he will veto this legislation; the first veto thus far of his 6-year administration.

I cannot, on my conscience stand face to face with an individual suffering from a degenerative disease, and tell them that an embryo that will be discarded is more important than saving their lives.

President Bush, I ask you to reconsider your stance on H.R. 810, the stem cell research bill. Leave a lasting legacy on your Presidency, this country and the entire world. Sign this important legislation into law. I support this legislation and stand with my colleagues in the House and the Senate.